

Public Hearing on Education Committee's  
Senate Bill No. 1054  
An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia  
3/11/15

My name is Sherryl Hauck and I live in the Town of New Fairfield, CT. I am the proud parent of a beautiful, intelligent and courageous dyslexic and am thankful for the opportunity to testify today. I support Senate Bill No. 1054, An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia as it relates to teacher education. My dyslexic could be the poster child for this bill!

Last February, at the age of 17, my daughter Lexi was diagnosed with dyslexia. A second semester high school senior, Lexi was privately tested by three experts. All revealed scores that ranked her in the 1st percentile and lower for reading and math. Her profile was labeled "a crisis, lethal and profound." Tragically, Lexi graduated high school with the reading fluency of a second grader.

Lexi's situation was a painful reality given the fact she was under the guidance of special education since first grade and achieved only A's & B's throughout high school. My husband and I trusted our school professionals who maintained our daughter was a model student and that her struggles were due to focus issues. School testing never found Lexi to be learning disabled, and standardized testing (with our school district's emphasis of "teaching to the test") did our daughter a grave disservice.

Lexi had all the early warning signs for dyslexia though I did not understand the symptoms of this diverse language disability. During her elementary school years, Lexi struggled with spelling, rhyming, tying her shoelaces and

confused her left and right. She often lost her place reading text and 20 minutes of homework turned into two tear filled hours. By middle school, Lexi would rather I read to her and had difficulty getting thoughts on paper. She could not tell time on an analog clock and struggled to open the combination lock on her locker, traits prevalent in some dyslexics. Today, Lexi reads painfully slow with little comprehension, does not have the ability to sound out words and has difficulty retrieving words on command.

If the initiatives for teachers that are proposed in this bill were in place when Lexi was in kindergarten, the early warning signs for dyslexia would have been recognized and researched based interventions could have been put in place. Instead, my daughter's dyslexia was dismissed by our affluent and educated Fairfield County School District and my bright high school graduate was sent out into the world without the ability to read.

A learning disability that goes unnoticed sets the stage for at risk behaviors and depression in our young. A teacher educated about dyslexia can prevent years of struggle or failure and the thinking that I'm just not smart enough.

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